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Catch some classic, classy soul with R. Kelly and Melanie Fiona at the Soul Beach Music Festival



R. Kelly

SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL will set the stage ablaze and immerses music lovers in the mellow glow of famed R & B performer R. Kelly as he and Melanie Fiona take to the stage

for the final concert of SBMF 2012 at the Nikky Beach Amphitheater in Oranjestad tomorrow night.

The three-time Grammy winning king of R&B, makes music of epic proportions. After 18 years of stardom, the multi-instrumental-

ist, producer and vocalist continues to forge an artistic path that caters to fantasy and captures the hearts of adoring fans. He exemplifies how an artist sells over 34 million records, and wears the crown of a king. The charts are proof of the Chicago native's storied success: six #1 albums, 11 #1 singles, and 12 consecutive platinum albums. From the tantalizing eight-time platinum "R", to the Grammy-award winning anthem "I Believe I Can Fly," and his recent hit single "I'm a Flirt" with Bow Wow, which garnered a 2008 ASCAP Rhythm and Soul Music Award, R. Kelly has shown he is the essence of R&B and why he is the recipient of multiple Billboard, BMI and American Music Awards.

Melanie Fiona is a two-time Grammy Award winning singer who recently released her sophomore album THE



MF LIFE to critical acclaim. The album, which peaked at #1 on the Billboard Hip Hop & R&B Charts was named "One of the best R&B albums of 2012" by People Magazine, while Entertainment Weekly gave it an "A-". Melanie Fiona's 2009 debut, The Bridge, reached No. 4 on the Billboard R&B/Hip-Hop Albums Chart, No. 4 on the Billboard Heatseekers Albums Chart, and No. 10 on the Billboard Tastemaker Albums Chart. In addition, the album was certified gold in Europe. She's received multiple BET, NAACP, and Juno Award nominations as well as being crowned "Best New Artist" at the 2010 Soul Train Awards.

Aruban group Youth X-Treme first made their name during Aruba's Carnival season 2004.

Continue on pg 2

Thousands march against media killings in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (AFP) - Thousands of people turned out in several cities across Honduras on Friday to protest a wave of journalist killings in the country, where 20 reporters have been murdered in

the past three years.

"Killing journalists does not kill the truth," chanted the demonstrators, some of them reporters themselves dressed in yellow and white shirts, as they marched past the offices

of the president and the human rights commission.

Organizers said 5,000 people turned out in Tegucigalpa alone. Other marches were held in San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, Comayagua and Choluteca.

"No more impunity," said one sign held by a protester.

Twenty journalists have been killed in Honduras since the overthrow of president Manuel Zelaya on June 28, 2009. None of the murders have been solved.

The body of HRN Radio journalist Alfredo Villatoro Rivera, 47, was found last week wearing an old police uniform, blindfolded with a red scarf and with gunshot wounds to the head, a police spokesman said.

He had been kidnapped the week before.

President Porfirio Lobo, who met with some of the protesters, admitted it was "difficult to have to combat those tasked with the people's security" -- an allusion to police, who are regularly implicated in criminal activity here.

According to UN agencies, Honduras had the world's highest murder rate in 2011, with 86 homicides a year for every 100,000 inhabitants.

Aruba's K-9 Corps goes international



Left to right: Officers Vrolijk, Boyrard and Catalina with Marco, Beer and Gino. Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers, awarded certificates to a new member of Aruba's K-9 Corps, Officer Gilbert Vrolijk, along with two officers from the St. Maarten Police Force, Officer John Boyrard and Officer Sharlon Catalina. (see story on pg 2)



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THE VILLAGE PLAZA
(behind Senor Frog's)



Catch some classic, classy soul with R. Kelly and Melanie Fiona at the Soul Beach Music Festival

Continued from pg 1

The creative drive of the operation is Derwin, a.k.a Master Gusto and Harvey, a.k.a Toolman, who put together a crew of musicians that were a sensation from their first performance. During carnival 2006, they once more were named Youth Band of the Year. In 2009, they won Band of the Year and it was their song named the Roadjam 2009 by popular choice. As of September 2011, Youth X-Treme now fully resides on the beautiful island of Aruba.

For information about ticket sales, accommodations and the latest updates sign up for CLUB SOUL BEACH, at <http://www.soulbeach.net> or visit <http://www.aruba.com>. Join the Soul Beach Music Festival community: follow developments on Twitter @SoulBeachMusic and become a fan of 2012 Soul Beach Music Festival on www.Facebook/soulbeach-music.

Ticket prices for the SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL are \$70 US (AFL 126) per concert or \$200 US (AFL 360) for a three-night concert package (plus applicable service charges).

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Aruba's K-9 Corps goes international



Newly certified officers with Minister Dowers, St. Maarten Chief Commissioner of Police Peter de Witte, Deputy Police Commissioner Trudy Hassel of the Aruban force and trainer Dick van Leenen



K 9 Corp with Minister Dowers and Police Commissioner De Witte

Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers, was proud to award certificates to a new member of Aruba's K-9 Corps, Officer Gilbert Vrolijk, along with two officers from the St. Maarten Police Force, Officer John Boyrard and Officer Sharlon Catalina, during an informal ceremony yesterday morning at the offices of government.

The St. Maarten policemen had just completed three weeks of recertification under the expert training of Dick van Leenen from Holland, who was introduced to the

community in January of this year, with the official unveiling of Aruba's K-9 Corps, consisting of 6 dogs and officers.

The event was multi-purposed; not only did the officers receive their certification, but marked the full inauguration of the Aruba International K-9 Academy under Dick van Leenen. The school is prepared to provide specialized training to not only Aruban police, but with the recertification of the two St. Maarten officers, affirms its position as a training cen-

ter for the entire region.

Present for the "graduation" was St. Maarten Chief Commissioner of Police Peter de Witte, who held that position in Aruba for three years, prior to accepting his present post in 2010. During the Friday morning meeting, he and Minister Dowers signed an agreement of collaboration between the police corps of Aruba and St. Maarten to share training programs at all levels, not only K-9, with a Special Forces program beginning within the next few months.

Dick van Leenen presented souvenir tee shirts for the occasion to Police Commissioner De Witte, Minister Dowers, and Deputy Police Commissioner Trudy Hassel of the Aruban force. Commissioner De Witte in turn presented memorial pins from the San Maarten force to the abovementioned, along with Officer Coffie, commander of Aruba's K-9 Division.

Continued on pg 4

Sunday **KOFFIE MORGEN**

Monday **Daily Raffle \$ 500** Earn **DOUBLE POINTS**

Tuesday **Daily Raffle \$ 500 - BlackJack Tournament**

Wednesday **Daily Raffle \$ 500 - Cool Casino - LADIES NIGHT**

Thursday **Daily Raffle \$ 500** Earn **DOUBLE POINTS**

Friday **BlackJack Tournament**

Saturday **KOFFIE MORGEN**



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Where Every One is Welcome

Saturday

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Where Every One is Welcome

Sunday

Koffie Morgen

3X Points (10am-6pm)

SLOT TOURNAMENT

\$1000 Cash Prizes

Ins. \$5 - Re-Buy \$5

Robert Thiel 10pm-1am

Located within the RIU PALACE HOTEL
J.E. Irausquin BLVD.79 Palm Beach
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Aruba's K-9 Corps goes international

Continued from pg 2



Police Commissioner De Witte and Minsiter Dowers sign agreement

Following the formal events, Officers Vrolijk, Boyrard and Catalina introduced their partners, Marco, Beer and Gino, who completely charmed the gathering.

They are all Belgian Malinois, a shepherd breed which has consistently proven their intelligence and courage. Unlike German Shepherds, they have not suffered from the

over-breeding and inbreeding that produces a number of physical ailments. The United States Secret Service and Royal Australian Air Force use the breed exclusively, and the U.S. Navy SEALs used a Belgian Malinois war dog named Cairo in Operation Neptune Spear, which resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden.

By Rosalie Klein



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BEST PRICES ON THE ISLAND

Island youth expanding their horizons with new foundation "Creciendo"



A new island foundation providing free workshops and classes allowing island youth to explore possibilities and "be all they can be" was introduced to the public on Thursday, May 24. "Creciendo" meaning to "grow and blossom" was founded by "Social Entrepreneur" Joase-Ann van der Biest, a community activist, and the foundation's name is self-explanatory.

Aruba offers a wealth of after-school activities for youngsters: dance art and music schools among them.

However, a portion of the community would very much like to expand and development their talents, but cannot afford the classes. Working with various groups and companies donating their time, Creciendo Foundation is providing these programs at no charge, and the results of the first series, dedicated to the arts, will be on display at the Cas di Cultura in Oran-

jestad on Sunday, July 8 in combination program of performing and visual arts.

"When so many claim our children are "disconnected" to the community and their families, we think it is up to all of us to step up and show our commitment to the next generation and our island by giving all children the opportunity to discover culture, and the power within themselves to create and appreciate art," commented Joase-Ann van der Biest. "We plant a seed in the youngsters with which we work; these seeds are the tools to change lives and make a difference."

During the first series of workshops, Creciendo partnered with the cultural foundation Muchila Creativo, represented by President Rosemary Provance. Noted performing artist Emerita Emerencia and painter Ruthbert Wolff along with other members of the foundation, worked intensively with sixty

children between the ages of seven to eighteen years, putting together an original "romantic play with music" titled "A Story of Playa Pabao." This will be accompanied by an art exposition in the Cas di Cultura exhibition room for the first demonstration of youthful talent and creativity.

The program was funded by UNOCA, Aruba's official financial funding for cultural projects, and VNO, the official contingent of the Dutch

into adulthood.

On Monday, June 28, a new session of workshops instilling "life skills" will begin, conducted by Abigail Arends of ELKA, which is dedicated to promoting self-esteem for all ages and Monrick Croes of Art of Dining, who will give classes on time management and working more efficiently; combined, the program's goal is to inspire leadership and community activism in the next generation.

CELLAR 23 and ARUBA TRADING, SUBWAY, Andrew Curiel, Elite and Upgrade Music, Billionaires Media, Maria Silva and Vibrations, and International School of Aruba.

Creciendo and Foundation Muchila Creativo invite all to show their commitment to island youth and support them in this community-building program by attending the recital and art show on July 8. The show begins at 7:30 PM and tickets are on sale for a



from the left, Rosemary Provance, Joese van der Biest, Meno Bart, Emerita Emerencia, Diedrich ten Holden, Monrick Croes, Abigail Arends and Ruthbert Wolff

government on Aruba, represented by Meno Bart and Diedrich ten Holden during the press conference.

Creciendo Foundation is not only about encouraging appreciation for the arts, but addressing a number of issues faced while developing

The Creciendo founder also expressed her gratitude to a number of companies and individuals who have donated their time or goods to making the program a success and shown their commitment to the community. These include REVLON,

donation of 25 Aruban florins to the foundation. They are available at UNOCA offices on the Stadionweg, Veneta Cuchina shop on Avenida Milio Croes, and Antraco Bookstore.

By Rosalie Klein

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Promotion valid until June 30, 2012

Book written by Princess Laurentien translated in Papiamentu is on Aruba!

Charuba and UNOCA are happy to announce that the book *"Mr. Finney y e otro banda di awa"* (Mr. Finney and the other side of the water) is here on the island and ready to go on sale. Mr. Finney himself will present the book to different bookstores who have ordered the book from UNOCA. The book will be officially introduced midday Saturday in an official ceremony. The Drumi Dushi team will also be present.

Princess Laurentien, is the wife of HRH Prince Constantijn, the third and youngest son of HRM Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands.

Princess Laurentien, a long-time advocate of promoting literacy, was recently on the island for the launch of the second in a series of children's books she has authored called "Mr. Finney and the Other Side of the Water," which has been translated and published in Papiamentu through the auspices of UNOCA. The first in the series is "Mr. Finney and the World Upside Down."

The children's book was originally launched in Holland in February of last year.

During the launch of the Papiamentu version, Princess Laurentien revealed that her concern for the environment and how it will affect her island home inspired her topic for the second book.

Mr. Finney is a precocious, inquisitive human/dolphin, who has received a distress call from Pinky Pepper, the inhabitant of island where immersion from rising sea levels are imminent; the other animals living on the island are trying to flee from drowning. Mr. Finney has significant questions that all should ponder about how we treat the earth and each other and searches for solutions both above and below the sea.

Princess Laurentien has stated she created her character as a catalyst for dialogs between adults and children about the environment, hope-

fully prompting children to also be inquisitive and concerned. She studied History at the University of Gronin-

gen, and received a (BA) degree in Political Science from the University of London followed by a Masters

in Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1991.

Everyone is invited to

visit the bookstores to purchase this lovely book written by Princess Laurentien.

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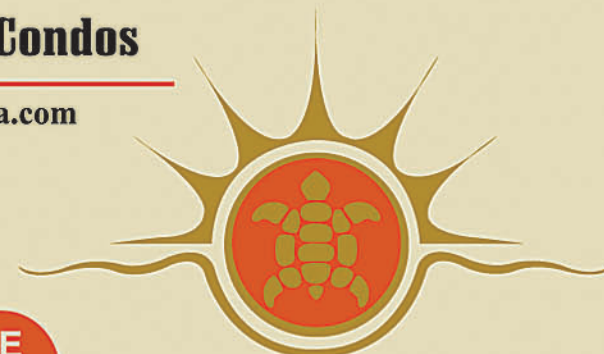
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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Battle over SKA super-telescope leads to split site



Artists impression of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope project

AMSTERDAM (AFP) - A long-running joust to host a radio telescope that would give mankind its farthest peek into the Universe ended on Friday with a Solomon-like judgement to split the site between Australia and South Africa.

"We have decided on a dual site approach," said John Womersley, chairman of the board of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project, at a press conference in the Netherlands.

He was speaking at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport fol-

lowing a meeting of the SKA organisation's members.

The two southern-hemisphere countries had been fighting fiercely to host the innovation, billed as a revolutionary giant that will be 50 times more powerful than present radio telescopes. New Zealand is included in Australia's bid.

Conceived more than two decades ago, the Square Kilometre Array aims at bringing together unprecedented size and new technology.

It would use a forest of antennae, spread out over remote

terrain, to pick up radio signals from cosmic phenomena that cannot be detected by optical telescopes.

Stars that flare into life or explode at their death, black holes, mysterious "dark energy," and relic traces of ancient events that occurred in the dawn of the Universe 14 billion years ago, are among its targets.

South Africa swallowed its disappointment, saying a split was "unexpected".

"We had hoped the unambiguous recommendation (to build the telescope in one location) ... would be accepted as the most sound scientific outcome; however we accept the compromise in the interest of progress," Minister of Science and Technology Naledi Pandor said.

For its part Australia was jubilant.

"This is an outstanding result for the Australia-New Zealand bid after many years of preparation and an intensive international process," said Science and Technology Minister Chris Evans.

At the press conference, Womersley said the compromise decision was taken after a recent meeting by a SKA working group, which he said "made the best use of both the significant investments these countries made into astronomy."

But a source told AFP the decision was made because the SKA organisation wanted to "maintain our broad support base", hinting that the there was concern that the loser of the two contenders might have pulled support.

The scheme entails linking 3,000 antennae, sited in groups along five spiral arms, progressively farther from a core array.

Pope's butler arrested in Vatican leaks scandal: reports



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Vatican police arrested Friday a man -- reportedly the pope's butler -- on allegations of having leaked confidential documents and letters from the pontiff's private study to newspapers.

The man was caught in possession of secret documents, the Vatican said, but it would not confirm the suspect's identity, age, or when he had been arrested.

According to Il Foglio newspaper and ANSA news agency, the detained man is none other than the pope's butler, Paolo Gabriele, a member of the small team which works daily in Pope Benedict XVI's apartments.

The Italian daily said he is likely to be used by the Vatican as "a handy scapegoat" for several others suspected of being involved in leaking documents, some of which ended up in a

new book on the tiny state published a week ago.

Gianluigi Nuzzi's "His Holiness" reproduces dozens of top secret and private letters and faxes which were smuggled out by whistle-blowers tired of the corruption and unhealthy bitterness in the Vatican.

The number of people who have access to the pope's private study is very limited, and includes his butler, four nuns and Benedict's two secretaries, Georg Gaenswein and Alfred Xuereb.

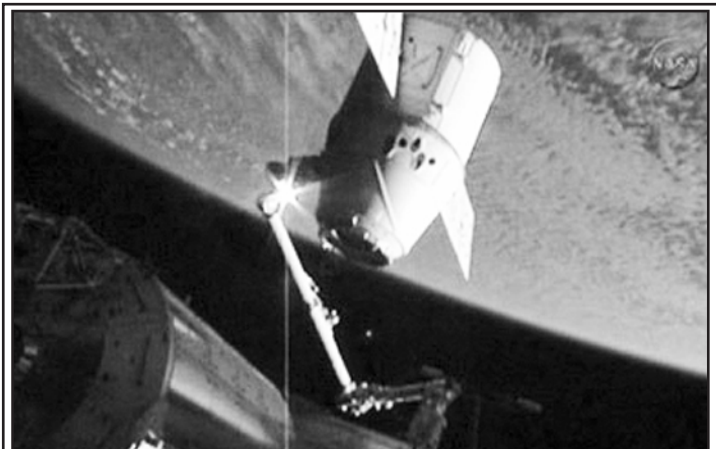
Last month, the pope set up a special commission of cardinals to probe the leaks, which began in January and have seen private documents splashed in the Italian media -- to the embarrassment and rage of the Holy See.

Among papers leaked to Italy's press are some that have dealt with allegations of corruption within the Vatican.

They have mainly centred on the activities of the Vatican bank and Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

The arrest came a day after the head of the Vatican Bank was ousted for failing to clean up the image of an institution that has come to symbolise the opacity and scandal gripping the Holy See's administration.

Ettore Gotti Tedeschi was thrown out by the bank's board for failing to do his job -- but had also recently been suspected of being one of those behind the leaks.



In this frame grab from a NASA video, the robotic arm of the International Space Station holds the SpaceX Dragon capsule on May 25, 2012 as astronauts prepare to dock the capsule with the station. SpaceX has become the first private company to rendezvous with the orbiting lab.

AFP PHOTO / NASA

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International News

Ukraine's Tymoshenko to bring case to European rights court



BRUSSELS (AFP) - Ukraine's ex-premier Yulia Tymoshenko is weak yet combative and will turn to the European Court of Human Rights to rule on her case, Belgium's former prime minister Guy Verhofstadt said Friday.

"Physically she is very weak. She has back pain and was lying down throughout the visit," Verhofstadt told AFP after a meeting with the fiery Orange Revolution leader that lasted over an hour.

"But she is in high spirits and remains very combative," said Verhofstadt, who leads the liberals and democrats in the European Parliament.

Tymoshenko, 51, is serving a seven-year sentence for abuse of power and now faces fresh charges that could extend her sentence to 2023.

"For her, the only objective authority capable of treating her case is the European Court of Human Rights and she wishes to bring her case there

as quickly as possible," Verhofstadt said.

A Ukrainian court on Monday once more adjourned a tax evasion trial of Tymoshenko due to her absence in hospital with debilitating back pains and set the next hearing for late June.

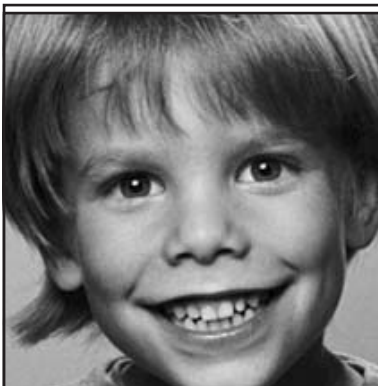
With the delay, Tymoshenko believes Ukraine's leaders have found a way to "eliminate a political adversary for legislative elections on October 29", Verhofstadt said.

Her latest trial began on April 19 but has been adjourned twice already because the opposition leader complained that her severe back pains forced her to lie down. She has been hospitalised at a public clinic since May 9.

Last week the Ukrainian appeals court also decided to postpone until June 26 its consideration of Tymoshenko's appeal against her sentence for abuse of power.

Her jailing prompted howls of international criticism. The European Union and many member countries have threatened their officials will boycott matches in the Euro 2012 that Ukraine co-hosts with Poland from June 8 to July 1.

Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine is one of the four Ukrainian cities to host the tournament, but the last match will be held in the city on June 17, before Tymoshenko's next hearing.



Pedro Hernandez (51), the suspect in the 1979 killing of New York City child, Etan Patz was arrested Thursday after several hours of questioning by police. Hernandez is facing a charge of second-degree murder in the death of six-year-old Etan. Hernandez has also been placed on suicide watch. Patz was a 6-year-old boy when he disappeared on his way to his school bus stop in 1979. It is alleged that Pedro Hernandez used a soda to lure the boy down to a basement of a bodega, then strangled him. Hernandez had been living quietly in New Jersey with his wife and teenage daughter and he had no criminal record. Following the media frenzy a day before the 33-year anniversary of the tragedy and a surprise decision in April to reactivate the cold case and over last month's search of the basement, a tipster came forward, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said, and told police that Hernandez had talked about killing a child. No motive has been established yet, Kelly said.



12TH ANNUAL SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL
NO CAMERAS ALLOWED

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

OPENING PARTY / WELCOME CELEBRATION
10pm - 3am, Hard Rock Café (Noord)
Featuring DJ General Lee

THURSDAY, MAY 24

LIVE RADIO REMOTE BROADCASTS
LASER 101: w/ GEE MONEY St. Maarten Radio
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WHUR: MIDDAY w/ TRACI LATRELLE
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WBAV: MIDDAY w/ CHIRL GIRL
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

DOUG & DEDE SHOW
3pm - 7pm, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino (Oranjestad)

FOXKHOLE RADIO
5pm - 7pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

CARUBBEAN FESTIVAL
6pm - 10pm, San Nicholas

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11pm - 3am, Hard Rock Café (Noord)
Featuring DJ General Lee

FRIDAY, MAY 25

MAIN SOURCE FITNESS BOOTCAMP
9am - 10am, Westin Hotel Poolside (Palm Beach)

LIVE RADIO REMOTE BROADCASTS
LASER 101: w/ GEE MONEY St. Maarten Radio
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WHUR: MIDDAY w/ TRACI LATRELLE
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WBAV: MIDDAY w/ CHIRL GIRL
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

FOXKHOLE RADIO
3pm - 6pm, Radisson - Gilligan's (Palm Beach)

DOUG & DEDE SHOW
3pm - 7pm, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino (Oranjestad)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH COMEDY NIGHT
7pm - 11pm, Aruba Entertainment Center (Oranjestad)
ARIES SPEARS
TONY ROBERTS
GINA YASHERE

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11pm - 3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring DJ Frank Ski

SATURDAY, MAY 26

MAIN SOURCE FITNESS BOOTCAMP
9am - 10am, Westin Hotel Poolside (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

MAIN STAGE CONCERT
7pm - 11pm
Soul Beach Amphitheater - Nikky Beach Adjacent (Oranjestad)
LL COOL J featuring DJ Z-TRIP
LEDISI
ARUBA ALL-STARS

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11:30pm - 3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring DJ Bubby Love

SUNDAY, MAY 27

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am - 3pm, Baby Beach (San Nicholas)

MAIN STAGE CONCERT
7pm - 11pm
Soul Beach Amphitheater - Nikky Beach Adjacent (Oranjestad)
R. KELLY
MELANIE FIONA
YOUTH XTREME

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11:30pm - 3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring DJ Biz Markie

Egypt vote narrows to Islamist, Mubarak holdover

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt looks set for a run-off presidential vote between the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohammed Mursi and Mubarak-era minister Ahmed Shafiq, pitting the Islamists who helped oust a dictator against his last premier.

A run-off between Shafiq and Mursi will further polarise a nation that rose up against president Hosni Mubarak's authoritarianism 15 months ago but has since suffered a spike in violence and a declining economy.

Candidate campaigns and Egyptian media reported Mursi leading, with Shafiq in second place and pan-Arab socialist Hamdeen Sabbahi in third.

The independent Al-Masry al-Youm newspaper reported on its website that Mursi had won with 24.9 percent, followed by Shafiq with 24.5 per-

cent and Sabbahi with 21.1 percent, basing on figures announced by judges in counting stations.

The Muslim Brotherhood also announced that its candidate was leading, with 90 percent of votes tallied from the Wednesday-Thursday election.

Representatives of the 12 candidates contesting the election watched the overnight vote count across the country and were present when the individual results were announced at each polling station.

Judges overseeing the count then handed the official results of each station to the candidates' representatives. The Islamist group compiled the results from around the country and then announced them.

A spokesman from Shafiq's campaign, Karim Salem, said

they were "confident that General Shafiq would be in the second round" but they were still waiting for official results.

The top two vote-getters will face each other in a run-off on June 16-17.

Between now and then, there is likely to be intense horse-trading between the two frontrunners to win over supporters of the losing candidates, some of whom share similar beliefs.

In a statement, moderate Islamist candidate Abdel Monem Abul Fotouh appeared to throw his support behind Mursi, urging voters to confront the "corrupt" regime ousted last year, to which Shafiq belonged.

In Cairo, voters were thrilled by the free, contested election, whose results were not predetermined, but conceded that many challenges lay ahead.

Health & Living

Doctors group warns EU health care access shrinking



President of medical charity Medecins du Monde, Olivier Bernard, is pictured in 2009.

(AFP) - Access to health care is declining in Europe, and Greece in particular faces a humanitarian crisis as it cuts health and social spending, aid group Doctors of the World warned Thursday.

Even priority patients such as pregnant women and children are not getting the care they need in large European cities -- a problem that is linked to, but also larger than, the eurozone crisis, Olivier Bernard, head of the group's French chapter, told a press conference.

"The economic crisis doesn't explain everything. On the contrary, it's precisely because

of the crisis that we need to invest in social protections," Bernard said at an international meeting in Athens held "in solidarity" with Greece.

The head of the group's Greek chapter, Nikitas

Kanakis, said the country was being driven toward a "humanitarian crisis" as the government desperately tries to cut spending to meet the terms of a bailout from the European Union and International Monetary Fund.

Kanakis warned the problem of worsening health care in Greece risked spreading to the rest of Europe as governments slash spending.

Nearly half of patients examined in 2011 in Doctors of the World's clinics in Nice, Amsterdam, Brussels, London and Munich had not received the level of care appropriate

for their conditions, while 79 percent of pregnant women had received no pre-natal care, the group said in a report.

Doctors of the World called for European governments to guarantee health care for every European citizen, stop deporting sick immigrants and implement policies to fight infectious diseases amid a resurgence of poverty-driven infections like tuberculosis.

Come clean on tattoo or forget promotion: Japan mayor

TOKYO (AFP) - The mayor of one of the largest cities in Japan, where body art is associated with gangsters, has told municipal workers to forget about promotion unless they reveal whether or not they have a tattoo.

Toru Hashimoto, the hugely popular mayor of Osaka and a rising star on the national political stage, described the order to about 34,000 city workers earlier this month as "necessary for labour affairs management".

"As a matter of course, it will never happen that someone is promoted without any problem after ignoring a legitimate order from his or her superior," Hashimoto told reporters on Tuesday.

Body art is deeply taboo in Japan. Public baths, fitness centres and many other venues throughout the country usually ban customers with tattoos.

Most Osaka employees have filled out the survey -- with about 110 admitting to sporting a tattoo, most of them waste disposal workers -- but more than 500 others have not, according to media reports.

"Citizens feel uneasy or in-

timidated if they see tattoos (on workers) in services and it undermines trust in the city," Hashimoto has said.

The mayor reportedly became infuriated earlier this year after learning that a worker at a children's home threatened kids by showing them his tattoos.

Hashimoto -- who says he admires cockroaches and allegedly offered on air to impregnate a TV personality -- earlier said he would "turn down" American pop diva Lady Gaga or actor Johnny Depp if the tattooed pair applied for a job.

Australia defiant on WTO cigarette challenge



CANBERRA (AFP) Australia said Friday it would "vigorously defend" itself against complaints about its plan for plain cigarette packaging made by Honduras and

Ukraine to the World Trade Organisation.

The action was launched by Ukraine at the WTO in March and Honduras joined the following month, according to the global trade arbiter.

"We'll be vigorously defending any WTO actions -- our steps aren't anti-trade, they're anti-cancer," a spokeswoman for Attorney-General Nicola Roxon told AFP.

While Honduras is a tobacco producer, the motives for opposition by Ukraine -- a nation of heavy smokers with a large tobacco industry but no direct trade with Australia -- were unclear.

If the dispute cannot be re-

solved through consultation Ukraine and Honduras can request formal adjudication through a WTO panel, which could force Canberra to scrap the legislation.

The cigarettes packaging plan is also currently subject to a challenge by several tobacco giants in Australia's High Court. Hearings concluded last month but a ruling is yet to be delivered.

The government has said it is confident it will see off the challenge to the law, which will see all cigarettes sold in the same drab olive-green packets with graphic health warnings from December 1.

Australia is the first country to mandate plain packaging, but the ground-breaking move is being closely watched by other countries considering similar approaches, including Britain and Canada.

Neighbouring New Zealand last month announced it had agreed "in principle" to go ahead with laws mandating similar plain packaging, as part of a wider strategy to stamp out smoking in the country by 2025.

Australia estimates it has 15,000 deaths each year from tobacco-related illnesses.

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Sci-Tech

British designer behind Apple iPhone is knighted



Sir Jonathan Ive

LONDON (AFP) - The Briton credited with designing some of Apple's most revolutionary products -- the iPod, iPhone, iPad and iMac computer -- was knighted by Princess Anne Wednesday.

Jonathan Ive, Apple's senior vice president of industrial design, was made a Knight Commander, Order of the British Empire (KBE) in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Ive, who is now entitled to call himself "Sir", told The Daily Telegraph in a rare interview that the knighthood was "incredibly humbling".

The products Ive designed not only transformed Apple's fortunes but also rocked the music and entertainment industries. He has been described as the most influential Briton living in the US.

So it is almost unnerving to hear him reveal that, despite having already set the bar so high, his most important work is yet to be revealed to the world.

"What we're working on now feels like the most important and the best work we've done... which of course I can't tell you about," he said in the Telegraph interview.

Ive, aged 45, was born in London but now lives in San Francisco.

Also receiving honours at the ceremony were Sir Peter Bazalgette, 59, of Endemol, the company behind Big Brother, who is knighted for services to broadcasting, and Oxford professor of poetry Sir Geoffrey Hill, 79, who was knighted for services to literature.



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Archaeologists find earliest evidence of Bethlehem



A clay seal recently unearthed by Israeli archaeologists is displayed

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Archaeologists have uncovered a tiny clay seal inscribed with the word "Bethlehem" in what is believed to be the earliest evidence for the existence of the ancient biblical city.

"The first ancient artefact constituting tangible evidence of the existence of the city of Bethlehem, which is mentioned in the Bible, was re-

cently discovered in Jerusalem," a statement Wednesday from the Israel Antiquities Authority said.

The artefact -- a piece of clay used for sealing a document or other object, known as a 'bulla' -- was uncovered during excavations at the City of David, a site just outside the southern wall of Jerusalem's Old City.

On the seal, which measures around 1.5 centimetres (about half an inch), was the name of the city written in ancient Hebrew script, it said.

"This is the first time the name Bethlehem appears outside the Bible, in an inscription from the First Temple period, which proves that Bethlehem was indeed a city in the Kingdom of Judah, and possibly also in earlier periods," said Eli Shukron, who led the dig.

He said the bulla belonged to a shipment of tax documents which were sent from Bethlehem to the king in Jerusalem, as part of a taxation system used in the Kingdom of Judah in the late eighth and seventh centuries BC.

Bethlehem is first mentioned in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, as the burial place of Rachel, wife of the patriarch Jacob.

According to the New Testament, the West Bank city of Bethlehem, which lies just south of Jerusalem, was also the birthplace of Jesus.



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COMICS

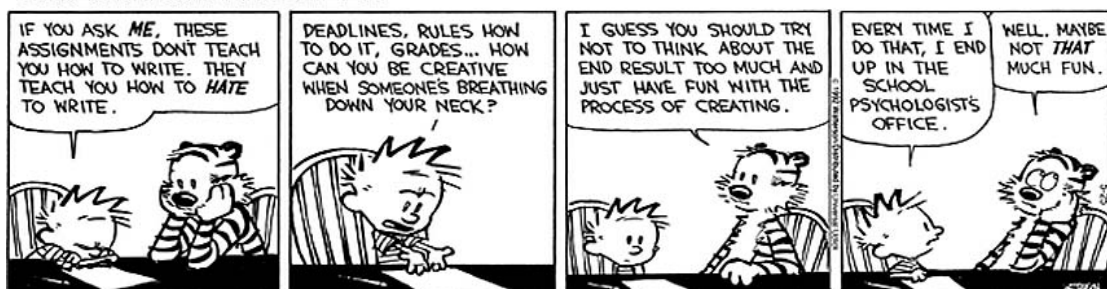
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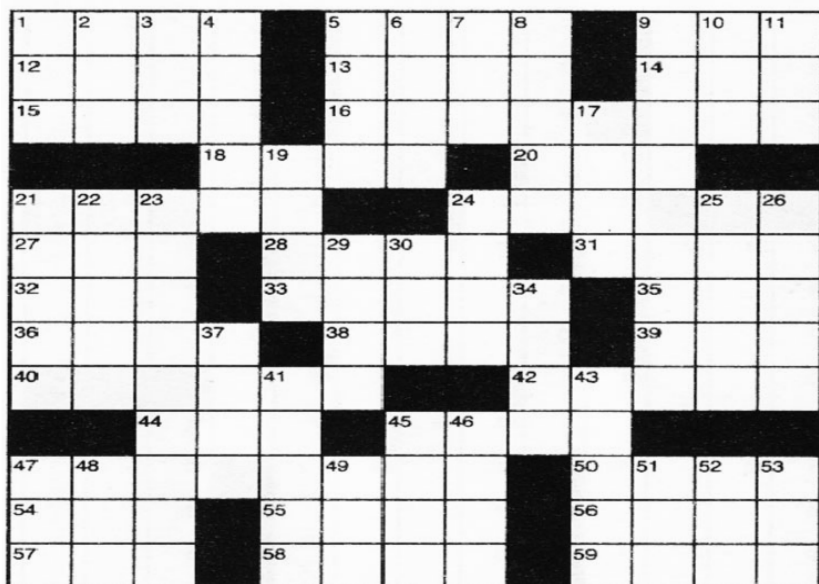
ACROSS

1. Moby Dick's nemesis
5. Drip slowly
9. Job for a band
12. Hay unit
13. Barcelona beverage
14. "Norma ___" (Sally Field movie)
15. Actress Martinelli
16. Largest city in Oregon
18. Marion of "Happy Days"
20. Redcap's reward
21. Shirt front ornaments
24. Generous folks
27. Very pale
28. Inits. for Lopez
31. Rob Knievel's dad
32. In addition to
33. Pimiento holder
35. Nest egg (abbr.)
36. Russian rejection
38. Exploited
39. Choicest part
40. Tahitian skirt
42. Narrow valleys
44. "Over There" conflict (abbr.)
45. On a voyage
47. Moon-shaped figure
50. The ___ Piper

DOWN

1. Presidential nickname
2. Actor Holbrook
3. Jolson and Gore
4. Whiskers
5. Debilitates
6. Selves
7. Germany's

8. Singer Page or LaBelle
9. Rumor network
10. John, in Aberdeen
11. H.S. diploma substitute
17. Reside
19. Norwegian city
21. Trumpeting birds
22. Country legend Tucker
23. Union suit, e.g.
24. Was generous
25. Broadcast again
26. Thick slices, as of bread
29. Cork
30. Boot camp residents (abbr.)
34. Rim
37. Drags
41. Indented places
43. Drink like a dog (2 wds.)
45. Poker stake
46. Proofreading instruction
47. Tax figurer (abbr.)
48. Agt.
49. ___ de toilette
51. "The Lady ___ Tramp" (2 wds.)
52. Result
53. Courtroom figures (abbr.)



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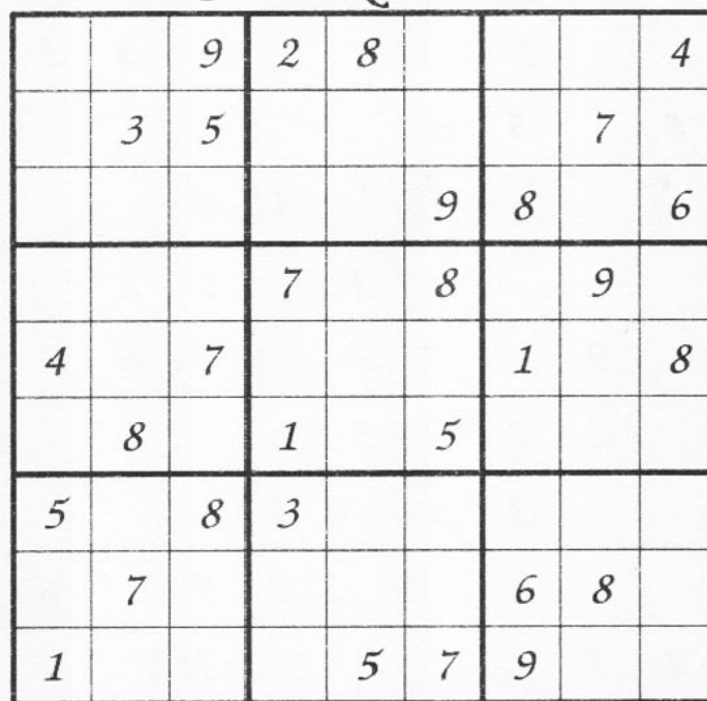
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	2	6	4	5	8	9	7	1
5	8	9	1	6	7	2	4	3
1	7	4	2	9	3	8	6	5
4	9	7	5	2	1	3	8	6
8	5	1	9	3	6	4	2	7
2	6	3	8	7	4	1	5	9
9	3	8	6	4	5	7	1	2
6	4	2	7	1	9	5	3	8
7	1	5	3	8	2	6	9	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Commodity prices slide on Greek euro exit fears

LONDON (AFP) - Many commodity markets sank this week to fresh multi-month lows, as the dollar surged to 22-month peaks against the euro on mounting fears that Greece could be heading for the eurozone exit.

"The ongoing uncertainty over the eurozone debt crisis and contagion fears are holding markets hostage," said Barclays Capital analyst Sudashina Unnikrishnan.

"The EU summit ended with no major breakthroughs, with Chancellor Merkel rejecting eurobonds for now.

"With the Greek elections scheduled for 17 June and the next EU summit at the end of June, market anxiety is likely to remain high over the next month."

The European single currency sank to \$1.2496 on Friday, touching a low last seen on July 6, 2010.

The strong greenback makes dollar-priced commodities more expensive for buyers using weaker currencies. That tends to pull prices lower.

Commodities were also roiled by concerns over a possible slowdown in Asian powerhouse economy China.

OIL: The crude oil market tumbled as investors shunned risky assets after former Greek prime minister Lucas Papademos warned that Athens might leave the eurozone.

The euro has slumped on growing evidence of an economic slowdown and as an EU summit failed to reassure

investors over Greece's future in the eurozone.

EU leaders pledged support for Greece at an informal Brussels summit on Wednesday, but analysts said the meeting highlighted divisions between France and Germany on dealing with the region's ongoing sovereign debt crisis.

Brent North Sea crude struck \$105.03 per barrel on Thursday, touching the lowest point since December 20. New York's light sweet crude sank on Wednesday to \$89.28 a barrel, hitting the lowest level since November 1.

Prices have fallen considerably after soaring earlier this year on the back of simmering Middle East tensions.

Iran and the so-called P5+1 world powers ended two days of "very intense" nuclear talks in Baghdad on Thursday with little to show except a deal to meet again in Moscow, on June 18-19, after sharp disagreements over the way forward.

The P5+1 powers comprise Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany.

By late Friday on London's Intercontinental Exchange, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in July dived to \$106.91 a barrel from \$107.40 for the June contract a week earlier.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, West Texas Intermediate or light sweet crude for June sank to \$90.99 from \$92.20.

PRECIOUS METALS: Precious metals also fell victim to the broader markets sell-off.

By late Friday on the London Bullion Market, gold had fallen to \$1,569.50 an ounce from \$1,589.50 a week earlier.

Silver declined to \$28.24 an ounce from \$28.48.

On the London Platinum and Palladium Market, platinum fell to \$1,456 an ounce from \$1,466.

Palladium slid to \$590 an ounce, from \$605 an ounce.

Netherlands to get deficit back to 3% next year: minister

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands aims to make 12.4 billion euros (\$15.5 billion) in savings and tax hikes next year to bring its public deficit back to the EU limit of 3.0 percent of GDP, the finance ministry said Friday.

"The total value of the measures in the accord is 12.4 billion in 2013," said the ministry which released details of the deal reached last month by five political parties, days after the govern-

ment fell when the far-right party of Geert Wilders refused to back the measures.

"It is clear that this package could bring us back under three percent," said outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte after a weekly cabinet meeting.

The Netherlands has been under pressure from Brussels to get its public deficit back to the EU limit of 3.0 percent of gross domestic product after it rose to 4.7 percent last year.

The measures include labour market reforms, a freeze of salaries for many state employees and raising health care charges.

Rutte called the package - the result of seven weeks of negotiations -- a good balance between an increase in revenues, cutting spending and structural reforms.

The Netherlands will hold legislative elections on September 12.

Briefs...

Apple chief passes on \$75 million in stock dividends

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Apple chief executive Tim Cook has opted not to take \$75 million in dividend payout on restricted shares of stock he owns in the maker of iPhones, iPads, iPods and Macintosh computers.

Cook, who took the helm of the iPhone and iPad maker in August last year, two months before the death of founder Steve Jobs, clocked in total annual compensation of \$378 million.

Cook earned \$900,000 for his annual salary and \$900,000 for his annual incentives.

Standard & Poor's downgrades five Spanish banks

MADRID (AFP) - Standard & Poor's on Friday lowered the credit rating of five Spanish banks in a move that follows the agency's downgrade of Spain last month.

The affected banks are Banco Popular, Bankinter, Banca Civica and Bankia along with its parent Banco Financiero y de Ahorro (BFA), the ratings agency said in a statement.

The downgrade comes as the board of Bankia was holding a board meeting to decide on its recapitalisation plan amid media reports that it may seek up to 20 billion euros (\$25 billion) from the state to stay afloat.

US says China's yuan undervalued, not manipulated



The Obama administration on Friday rejected calls from Congress to brand China a currency manipulator, but said its "significantly undervalued" currency was a key brake on global growth. The US Treasury Department said China had not met the standards for manipulation of the yuan, also known as the renminbi, to gain an unfair competitive trade advantage. Such a distinction could pave the way for retaliatory sanctions. Beijing's tightly managed currency policy has triggered huge trade deficits in the United States, fueling a long-running source of friction between the world's two largest economies. (AFP)

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





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Madonna touches down in Israel at start of world tour



Madonna poses with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his wife Sara and Guy Oseary at the Prime Minister's official residence in Jerusalem (Sept. 2009)

JERUSALEM (AFP) - International music icon Madonna arrived in Israel on Friday to kick off her hotly anticipated world tour with a sold-out performance in Tel Aviv.

She arrived amid tight security on a chartered El Al flight from New York, accompanied by partner Brahim Zibat, her four children and an entourage of 70, local media reported.

Thursday's Tel Aviv show is the first of 84 dates across Europe and the Americas, according to her website.

They are to be followed by a visit to Australia, where Madonna has not appeared in 20 years, it said.

The tour -- Madonna's first since her wildly successful "Sticky and Sweet" outing in

2008 and 2009 -- will support her new album "MDNA."

She last performed in Israel in 2009, on the Sticky and Sweet tour.

During that visit she met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and visited the Western Wall in the Old City of

Jerusalem, the holiest site where Jews are allowed to pray.

Although not Jewish, Madonna is a keen follower of the Jewish mystic discipline of Kabbalah.

She visited Israel in 2004 and 2007 on private trips.

Tonight marks the start of the week-long Jewish holiday of Shavuot, or the Feast of Weeks.

Israeli public radio said that Madonna was expected to spend much of the holiday "resting and making short trips," with rehearsals on the eve of her show.

Walla! news website said that among the star's demands for the backstage area at the Ramat Gan football stadium are a treatment room with massage table and jacuzzi, a personal laundry room and spaces for Madonna, her children, her dressmaker and other staff.

Azerbaijan detains 30 on eve of Eurovision final

BAKU (AFP) - Police in Azerbaijan detained about 30 people Friday when a group of opposition protesters held a small rally in central Baku on the eve of the Eurovision Song Contest final.

The gathering on a busy promenade beside the Caspian Sea in the glitzy capital was called by the Public Chamber

opposition alliance which brings together the main opposition parties in the energy-rich nation.

But police grabbed about 30 protesters from the crowd of several dozen people as they shouted "Freedom!", putting them in vans, an AFP correspondent reported.

The busy public place filled with journalists and observers, including some representatives of Europe's security body OSCE, as police officers struggled to identify more protesters in the crowd.

Azerbaijan has pulled out all the stops to put on the international Eurovision song contest. But the festivities have been overshadowed this week by arrests of dozens of opposition supporters who have seized on the opportunity to draw attention to the country's rights record and issues like political prisoners.

IT KEEPS GETTING BETTER AT STELLARIS CASINO



Aruba's largest casino, the Stellaris Casino at the Aruba Marriott strives to provide guests the best gaming experience. The latest IGT slot machines models, (Multi Layers Displays) the Wolf Run 2, the Frantic Antics and the Jungle VIP machines are loaded with 3D entertainment and multiple, frequent, and innovative bonuses are housed only at the Stellaris Casino. The Interactive jumble up features provides players a fun and unique experience. Stellaris Casino announces in the remainder of 2012 over thirty brand new machines are scheduled to arrive, including Sex and the City Big Diamonds and the newest version of the Wheel of Fortune Slot machines. The combination of unique game play and interactive bonuses will entertain fans of the original game and new players alike. Players will experience even more glitz and glamour on the casino floor. For upcoming specials and promotion, please visit the Stellaris Casino Facebook page or www.stellariscasino.com to stay updated.



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Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco

Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reser-



Stunning sunset



ervations can be made by calling 586- 0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latrattoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.



Osso Buco with Risotto

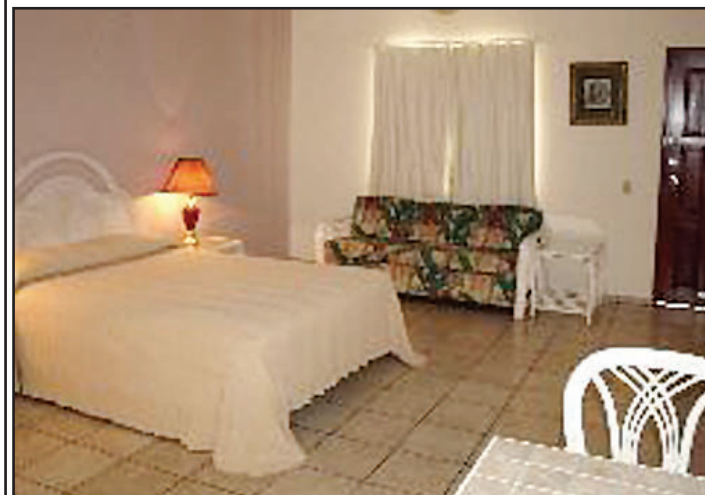


Risotto Frutti de Mare



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These fabulous loft apartments are more spacious, with the sleeping area upstairs on the loft. All apart-

ments are completely furnished with cable TV. The open kitchen is very spacious and equipped with stove top, refrigerator, toaster/oven and coffee maker (microwave optional). The apartments are air-conditioned, with daily maid service, private parking and a mini market.

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Quality Apartments is situated at the Schotlandstraat 70 in Oranjestad. For reservations or information readers may call at tel: (297)-582-0697 or (297)-583-7484, Fax: (297)-583-5203. Office hours are Monday thru Friday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE
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Eriksen bearer of great expectations

COPENHAGEN (AFP) - Christian Eriksen is regarded as one of the brightest young stars in football and he will hope that he can justify the tag of being Denmark's successor to Michael Laudrup at Euro 2012.

At just 20 years of age, the playmaker will be appearing at his second major championships, after being part of the side that bowed out in the group stage of the 2010 World Cup.

A lot will revolve around the Ajax star, as the Danes look to progress beyond the so-called "Group of Death".

Eriksen, who already has two Dutch league title winners medals, will be a marked man when Denmark step out to meet Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal, who the Danes edged in their qualifying group.

Unlike Michael Laudrup and his brother Brian, Eriksen -- scorer of two goals in 21 international appearances -- does not have other top class creative players around him in a side that relies on hard work and team spirit to beat classier opponents.

But the youngster has shown in qualifying and in a friendly against England that he is an exceptional talent, with a maturity also reflected in his decision to choose Ajax as his first step on the professional ladder.

While European giants such as Chelsea and AC Milan came knocking on his door in 2008 when he was just 16 and playing for Odense, Eriksen refused to be swept off his feet and opted for a side that has a tradition in allowing young talent to flourish.



Christian Eriksen (right) fights for the ball during the UEFA EURO 2012 qualifier against Iceland

"My first step should not be too big. I knew that playing in the Netherlands would be very good for my development," said Eriksen, who first started playing football before he was three.

"Then Ajax arrived and that was a fantastic option."

His choice has paid off for both him and the club and earned him praise from as harsh a critic as Dutch legend Johan Cruyff, who is not given to delivering praise freely.

"He's a player I really like with all my heart," said Cruyff when Eriksen was awarded the Dutch talent of the year in 2011. "This prize is just the beginning, a stimulus to get the maximum out of his career."

"The talent is there, the recognition also; now it is up to the player himself. He is a typical product of the Danish school. You can compare him with Brian and Michael Laudrup. Only time will tell if Eriksen can reach the same level as them."

This European champi-

onship in Poland and Ukraine will test whether Eriksen has it in him to go on and become one of Europe's finest talents, as the Laudrups did in the 1980s and 1990s.

Gerrard determined to banish World Cup woe



OSLO (AFP) - Steven Gerrard challenged his England teammates to banish their 2010 World Cup nightmare here on Friday as he prepared to kick off a new era under manager Roy Hodgson.

Gerrard was promoted to the captaincy on the eve of the World Cup two years ago after an injury to Rio Ferdinand ruled the Manchester United defender out of the tournament.

However the 31-year-old Liverpool midfielder presided over a miserable campaign which ended with a humiliating 4-1 drubbing by Germany in the last 16 after a dismal performance in the group phase.

"It was very difficult out in South Africa because we never performed at a good level," Gerrard told reporters.

"We never reached the level that this team's capable of and that was the frustrating thing. But I think throughout the Euro qualifying campaign we showed we are a good team and we have bounced back."

England's chaotic build-up to next month's tournament has left expectations at an all-time low, with most observers believing Gerrard and his team-mates will do well to qualify from a Group D which sees them face France, Sweden

and co-hosts Ukraine.

However Gerrard said England can take comfort from the against-the-odds Champions League triumphs of Chelsea this season and Liverpool in 2005.

Gerrard is also adamant that the Football Association chose wisely when they appointed Hodgson earlier this month despite a public clamour for Tottenham's Harry Redknapp, saying he had been impressed by the 64-year-old during his ill-fated six-month stint as Liverpool manager.

"I got on fantastically well with him. Roy took the Liverpool job in very difficult circumstances because the majority of our fantastic supporters really wanted Kenny (Dalglish) to be our manager," Gerrard said.

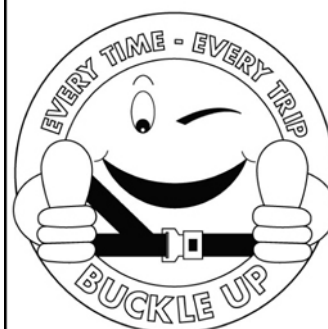
"So from day one Roy had a really tough job. But I can assure everyone he's a really good manager. I've worked with him day in, day out and he's a winner."

Gerrard also discounted suggestions of lingering tensions in the squad following the inclusion of John Terry, who was stripped of the captaincy in February following concerns over his upcoming court case on charges of racially abusing Anton Ferdinand, the younger brother of Rio. Terry denies the charges.

Asked if there were divisions in the squad, Gerrard replied: "It's false. We're united, we're together, we're all after the same thing. That's to win."

He also welcomed the presence of Terry, who had famously threatened to stage a mutiny at the World Cup in an apparent challenge to former manager Fabio Capello.

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Buckle up

Golf: Morrison leads but Donald looms as McIlroy heads home



WENTWORTH (AFP) - England's James Morrison was the shock leader after two rounds of the PGA Championship here on Friday but world number one Rory McIlroy was heading home after missing the cut.

Morrison shot a 64 for a two round aggregate of 132, twelve-under par, 21 shots better than McIlroy who imploded with a second round 79 and will lose his top-ranked status if Luke Donald finishes eighth on his own or better this weekend.

Morrison, 27, leads by four from defending champion Donald, who had a second successive 68 and overnight leader David Drysdale who

followed up his 66 with a 70. Ireland's Peter Lawrie and Alvaro Quiros of Spain were a further shot back in fourth on seven-under.

World number three Lee Westwood made a birdie on the par-5 last to squeeze into the last two days after finishing on 145, one-over par.

Morrison did not have a bogey on his card, making six birdies before a grandstand finish at the par-5 18th where he rolled in a 30-foot putt for an eagle and the second best 36-hole score in this tournament's history. Paul McGinley was 13-under at the same stage in 2008.

Despite his one tour win Morrison is not used to competing in tournaments of this magnitude and admitted he can see Donald out of his rear view mirror.

"I expect a lot but at the same time you have got the likes of Donald and company behind you," he said.

"This is my third year on tour and I have won but this is a different level. But that was

one of the best rounds I have played and probably one of the easiest, or it felt easy. I wish golf was like that every day but it isn't."

Morrison was a promising cricketer as a youth and played in the same England age-group sides as current internationals Alastair Cook, Tim Bresnan and Ravi Bopara.

He switched to golf aged 16 and within a year he was a scratch player before accepting a scholarship in the United States ahead of turning professional.

Donald got off to a bad start by dropping a shot at the first but five subsequent birdies and an eagle helped him keep Morrison in his sights.

Gusting winds did not help the afternoon starters and McIlroy suffered more than most as he missed a second cut in a row after failing to make the weekend at the Players Championship.

McIlroy shipped shots consistently through the second round less than three weeks away from his defence of the US Open at the Olympic Club in San Francisco and will heading straight for the range.

He said: "I will have to go and work really hard to get my game back to the level it was before the Masters. I have been putting the work in it is just being more specific.

FIFA to compensate clubs for injured players

BUDAPEST, (AFP) - Football's world governing body FIFA decided at their 62nd Congress here on Friday to compensate clubs whose players are injured while on international duty.

FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke confirmed that the so-called "player protection programme" will cover all senior international matches played between September this year and October 2013, as well as the football tournament at this summer's London Olympics.

The amount of compensation will depend on the salary earned by the player in question, although the maximum salary taken into account will be \$8.75 million, excluding bonuses.

FIFA's total budget for the scheme will be \$75 million.

"European players will also be insured from May 15 to August 31 to cover the risk posed by the European Championship, but UEFA will assume

the whole cost," added Valcke.

The issue of compensating clubs whose players are injured on international duty has been a source of discord between clubs and federations for some time.

Also South Sudan on Friday became the 209th member of FIFA, just under a year after it declared independence and joined the United Nations.

The country's admission was passed by 98 percent of FIFA members at the body's annual congress in Budapest.

The president of the South Sudan football association, Oliver Mori Benjamin, reminded members that the country was "still at war" but added: "We promise that we will develop football to fight against war and hunger."

South Sudan and Sudan have been blighted by conflict. Peace talks between the two nations are due to resume next week after weeks of border skirmishes and bombardments

MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	28	17	.622	--	WASHINGTON	26	18	.591	--
TAMPA	27	18	.600	1.0	ATLANTA	26	20	.565	1.0
TORONTO	24	21	.533	4.0	NY METS	24	21	.533	2.5
YANKEES	23	21	.523	4.5	MIAMI	24	21	.533	2.5
BOSTON	22	22	.500	5.5	PHILADELPHIA	23	23	.500	4.0
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CLEVELAND	26	18	.591	--	CINCINNATI	25	19	.568	--
CHICAGO	23	22	.511	3.5	ST. LOUIS	25	20	.556	0.5
DETROIT	20	24	.455	6.0	HOUSTON	21	23	.477	4.0
KANSAS	17	26	.395	8.5	PITTSBURG	20	24	.455	5.0
MINNESOTA	15	29	.341	11.0	MILWAUKEE	18	26	.409	7.0
West	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	27	18	.600	--	LA DODGERS	30	14	.682	--
OAKLAND	22	23	.489	5.0	SAN FRANCISCO	24	25	.444	10.5
LA ANGELES	21	25	.457	6.5	ARIZONA	20	25	.444	10.5
SEATTLE	21	26	.447	7.0	COLORADO	16	27	.372	13.5
					SAN DIEGO	17	29	.370	14.0

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NBA: Western powers Spurs, Thunder duel for finals berth



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The San Antonio Spurs and Oklahoma City Thunder, having stormed through the first two rounds of the NBA playoffs, begin their duel for the Western Conference crown on Sunday.

The Western Conference finals, with a berth in the NBA finals championship series at stake, pits the West's top two teams against each other.

The Thunder, the dominant force in the West for much of the season, saw the Spurs assume that mantle with a late-season winning streak that has now reached 18 games.

During the streak the Spurs have won by an aver-

age of 14 points per game, finishing off the regular season with 10 successive victories before sweeping past the Utah Jazz and then the Los Angeles Clippers to reach the conference finals for the first time since 2008.

The young Thunder squad led by Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook dispatched defending NBA champions Dallas in the first round, and the 2010 champions Los Angeles Lakers in the second as they seek a first title since the club moved to Oklahoma City.

San Antonio host game one of the best-of-seven series on Sunday, a week after the Spurs finished off the Clippers in a game four in which Tim Duncan led six Spurs players in double figures with 21 points and nine rebounds.

The Spurs' last defeat was an April 11 setback against the Lakers.

But San Antonio, who won four titles from 1999 through 2007, know the streak counts for nothing if they don't ad-



vance. They were the top seeds in the West last year when they were stunned in the first round by Memphis.

"As far as the winning streak is concerned, it doesn't exist for us," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Each game is its own and we don't talk about it, it doesn't come up and it's not even on the radar for us."

What the Spurs will draw on is their wealth of post-season experience.

Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili have played 130 playoff games as teammates.

Popovich's 116 career post-season wins are third all-time among coaches behind Phil Jackson (229) and Pat Riley (171).

Westbrook and Durant,

both 23, have youth and enthusiasm on their side, but Westbrook said they know their opponents' experience will be hard to overcome.

San Antonio were 2-1 against Oklahoma City in the regular season, with Ginobili missing all three games because of injury.

The Thunder won the first meeting in January, but the Spurs won the next two in February and March.

The match-up between point guards Westbrook and Parker will be key.

Rising star Westbrook has the advantage in size, and is

a dangerous scorer as well as a facilitator for Durant.

France's Parker, however, boasts dazzling quickness and scoring ability and a wealth of experience in creating plays for his teammates.

He averaged more than 18 points and a career-high seven assists per game this season.

Former Spurs player Steve Kerr says the Spurs "have become Tony Parker's team."

"He sets the entire table for the Spurs," Kerr said. "His speed leads to everything for them."

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